

**Congressman
Rob Simmons**

**Connecticut
2nd District**

- Armed Services Committee
- Military Procurement Subcommittee
- Military Personnel Subcommittee
- Transportation and Infrastructure Subcommittee
- Subcommittee on Railroads
- Subcommittee Highways & Transit
- Subcommittee on Coast Guard and Maritime Transportation
- Chairman for the Veterans' Subcommittee on Health



serving an additional 1.5 million more people.

Community health centers do much more than just treat illness. They help prevent disease and strengthen our communities. Community health centers improve citizens' health, provide jobs, strengthen schools, stabilize neighborhoods, and build community pride. Thanks to the dedicated professionals at these facilities, workers are able to be more productive, children are able to stay in school, and mothers are able to care for their newborn babies. Community health centers work because they are neighbors helping neighbors to keep their community healthy.

Dear Friends:

In January, I joined the Congressional Community Health Center Caucus, a bipartisan group that was established to highlight, support and promote policies that preserve and expand access to care for uninsured and underserved Americans who receive treatment in our community, migrant and homeless health centers.

I have personally seen the variety of services the community health centers in eastern Connecticut provide for our neighbors and loved ones. Studies show that people who regularly visit a health center reduce their health care expenditures by more than 30%. That's why it's important that Congress work in a bipartisan manner toward providing and protecting our community health centers.

The availability of a community health care center reduces federal Medicaid and Medicare costs as well as hospital emergency room visits. Health centers serve everyone, regardless of their ability to pay. This is all accomplished through locally controlled patient boards. This year an average health center cost per patient was only \$425, and that includes an average of three visits per year. There are 36 community health centers throughout Connecticut, including nine in the Second Congressional District.

Since coming to Congress, I have visited centers throughout the Second District, secured grants for health centers in eastern Connecticut and fought with my colleagues for increased federal funding. Last December, in a letter to President Bush, I joined 47 of my House colleagues in requesting a \$180 million funding increase for community health centers under the fiscal year 2005 budget. The funding would allow for the creation of 145 additional health centers